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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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SUBJECT : MINH CAMP'S COMMENTS ON ALLEGED "TOP SECRET" ELECTION RIGGING DOCUMENT

REF : SAIGON 13400, PARA 35

1. ON AUGUST 20, GEN. DUONG VAN MINH'S CAMPAIGN STAFF RELEASED THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTARY BY HIS STAFF ON THE PURPORTED "TOP SECRET" ELECTION-RIGGING INSTRUCTIONS ALLEGEDLY SENT BY INDEPENDENCE PALACE TO PROVINCE CHIEFS. THE COMMENTARY IS KEYED TO THE DOCUMENT'S TEXT. (1)

2. BEGIN TEXT. TITLE: COMMENTS ON THE TOP SECRET DOCUMENT.

3. PART ONE
A. GENERAL EXPLANATION
3) IN THE PROVINCES OF CENTRAL VN AND, IN PARTICULAR, IN QUANG TRI THERE IS PATENT EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROCEEDED TO INVESTIGATE THE PERSONAL BACKGROUNDS OF VOTERS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Dzul DATE 1/26/84
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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ESPECIALLY OFFICIALS OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCH FROM THE VILLAGE LEVEL DOWNWARDS.

4. IN MILITARY REGION 4, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTIGATED THE PERSONAL HISTORIES OF THE POPULATION AND HAS DIVIDED IT INTO 3 CATEGORIES: A, B. AND C. THIS OPERATION HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT FOR MANY MONTHS AND EVERYONE IN THE DELTA IS AWARE OF IT. SOME TIME AGO, DEP. DUONG VAN BA OF BAC LIEU SO INFORMED GEN. MINH. RECENTLY, DURING A TRIP TO THE DELTA, SEN. TRAN DUY DON WAS SHOWN LISTS OF THESE CLASSIFICATIONS BY VARIOUS VILLAGE CHIEFS. SEN. DON VISITED LONG XUYEN, KIEN PHONG AND CHAU DOC.

5. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, THESE CLASSIFICATION LISTS WERE TO BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES BY THE END OF JUNE, 1971. THE PURPOSE OF THIS OPERATION IS TO PERMIT THEM TO BE ABLE EASILY TO PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE 2 OR 3 VOTING CARDS TO EACH OF THEIR SYMPATHIZERS. THE GOVERNMENT SAYS THAT THE VOTING CARDS WERE MADE USING A COMPUTER, BUT GEN. MINH'S OFFICE HAS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF CASES OF PERSONS HAVING MANY IDENTICAL VOTING CARDS.

6. REGARDING OPPOSITION VOTERS, THEIR NAMES ARE "OMITTED" FROM LISTS OF VOTERS OR THEY DO NOT RECEIVE VOTING CARDS.

7. THE VOTING CARD IS TO BE USED IN BOTH ELECTIONS, LOWER HOUSE AND PRESIDENTIAL. GEN. MINH'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE CONDUCTED A SURVERY IN SAIGON AND A NUMBER OF PROVINCES ON AUGUST 12-13 REGARDING THE DISTRIBUTION OF VOTING CARDS WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS: SAIGON: 42 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION HAVE RECEIVED THEIR VOTING CARDS. THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE IN 36 PERSENT IN DISTRICT 3. IN THE DELTA, 53 PERCENT OF THE
POPULATION HAVE RECEIVED THEIR VOTING CARDS: THE LOWEST PERCENTAGES BEING IN KIEN HOA WITH 47 PERSENT AND VINH BINH WITH 43 PERSENT. IN CENTRAL VIET-NAM, 62 PERSENT OF POPULATION HAVE RECEIVED THEIR VOTING CARDS.

8. BECAUSE IT WAS STIPULATED IN THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTION LAW THAT ISSUANCE OF VOTER CARDS MUST BE COMPLETED 24 HOURS BEFORE ELECTION DAY AT THE LATEST. GEN. DUONG VAN MINH'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO MAKE

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A SECOND SURVEY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTION.

9. ALSO WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUANCE OF VOTER CARDS, GEN. MINH'S PRESS OFFICE CALLED THE PEOPLE'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WHEN THE FOLLOWING APPEAL WAS PUBLISHED BY NEWSPAPERS, THE LATTER WERE REQUESTED BY THE PRESS DIRECTORATE TO STRIKE FROM THE PRINTING:

10. "THE DAY SCHEDULED FOR ISSUANCE OF VOTER CARDS FOR THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTION HAS COME. COMPATRIOTS, YOU MUST REQUEST YOUR VOTER CARDS. OTHERWISE, YOUR VOTER CARDS WILL BE SOLD TO DISHONEST CANDIDATES AND USED BY CADRE EMPLOYED BY THE LATTER IN THE ELECTION. ELECTION FRAUD MAY BE COMMITTED AS FOLLOWS: WHEN THEY ENTER THE POLLING STATION, THE CONCERNED PERSONS PRODUCE THEIR IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND VOTER CARDS. AFTER THEY HAVE CAST THEIR BALLOTS, THEY PRODUCE THE VOTER CARDS ISSUED OTHER PERSONS TO HAVE THE CORNER OF THESE CARDS CUT."

11. ANALYSIS ON VILLAGE AND SUB-DISTRICT WARD LEVELS
PHASE 2 -- MORE THAN ONE MONTH AGO, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES FROM BAC LIEU, BINH THAUN, VINH BINH, QUANG NAM, QUANG TIN PRIVINCES ETC..., STATED THAT THE PROVINCE CHIEFS OF THESE PROVINCES SET UP AN ORGANIZATION OF CAMPAIGN WORKERS, EACH OF THEM IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION AND STUDY OF THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED VOTERS.

12. PART TWO
A) PLANS TO SECURE THE SUPPORT OF VOTERS
3) SCHEMES EMPLOYED TO PARALYZE CANDIDATES KNOWN FOR THEIR OPPOSITIONIST VIEWS....
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8995
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
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13. -ARREST AND DETENTION: A TYPICAL CASE IS THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF NGUYEN XUAN LAP, LEADER OF BUDDHIST STUDENTS IN SAIGON.

14. -THREAT: THREATS ARE USED IN EVERY PROVINCE. THE MOST BLATANT AND TYPICAL THREATS HAVE BEEN USED IN VINH BINH AND BAC LIEU PROVINCES AND IN DALAT CITY. MOST RECENTLY, DR. HO VAN MINH'S DISPENSARY HAD ITS SIGN REMOVED, AND PLAINCLOTHES SECURITY AGENTS WERE PLANTED THERE TO FOLLOW THE ACTIVITIES OF PEOPLE ENTERING OR LEAVING THE DISPENSARY. A NURSE HIRED BY DR. MINH, MR. NGUYEN MONG HUNG, A DEMOBILIZED SERGEANT WITH TWELVE YEARS' SENIORITY IN THE ARMY, WAS ARRESTED AT MIDNIGHT, AUGUST 12, 1971.

15. -SHADOWING: IT OCCURS EVERYWHERE. RECENTLY, ATTORNEY TRAN NGOC LIENG WAS SHADOWED BY AN ARMY CAPTAIN IN A 2-CV CITROEN AND BY A DRIVER ON A HONDA DURING A TRIP TO THE DELTA.

16. ALL THOSE WHOM LAWYER LIENG CONTACTED AND VISITED ALSO WERE "VISITED" BY SECURITY AND SECRET AGENTS. ONE OF GEN. MINH'S CADRE WAS SHADOWED AND HIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN WHEN

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HE WENT TO PHUOC TUY PROVINCE FOR ORGANIZATIONAL WORK. THANKS TO HIS FAMILIARITY WITH THE POLICE OFFICERS, THIS CADRE LEARNED THE ORDER CAME FROM THE CENTRAL AUTHORITIES.

17. TRANSFER: DEPUTY NGO CONG DUC HAS A LIST OF 50 TRANSFERRED OFFICIALS IN VINH BINH PROVINCE.

18. IN A NUMBER OF PROVINCES IN CENTRAL VIET NAM, SERVICEMEN WHO WORKED FOR THE HOA SEN (LOTUS) SLATE HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM UNIT TO UNIT, AND FROM POLWAR TO COMBAT UNITS.

19. A TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS THE CASE OF CANDIDATE TO THE LOWER HOUSE IN KIEN HOA PROVINCE, VO LONG TRIEU WHO WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE JGS TO BAN ME THUOT.

20. ACCORDING TO DR. HO VAN MINH, THE SECURITY COMMISSIONER AT SUB-WARD 12, BINH TAY WARD WAS TRANSFERRED BECAUSE HE WOULD NOT DESTROY DR. MINH'S DISPENSARY ON HIS SUPERIORS' ORDER.

21. DEPUTY DUONG VAN BA HAS RECENTLY SAID THAT ARTILLERY CAPTAIN PHAN THANH TUNG WAS TRANSFERRED FROM BAC LIEU TO CAMAU, AND THEN, ON 24 HOURS' NOTICE, TO QUANG TRI, BECAUSE HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW WAS GEN. DUONG VAN MINH'S REPRESENTATIVE IN BAC LIEU, HE HAPPENED TO LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE AND, THEREFORE, WAS ALLEGEDLY CAMPAIGNING FOR GEN. MINH.

22. ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE, A NUMBER OF LOYAL PROVINCE CHIEFS WERE TRANSFERRED TO DIFFICULT PROVINCES IN ORDER TO REPRESS OPPOSITION ELEMENTS AND TO CARRY OUT ELECTORAL FRAUDS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN VINH BINH, BAC LIEU, AND KIEN HOA PROVINCES.

23. AT THE DISTRICT AND VILLAGE LEVEL, CASES OF TRANSFERS ARE INNUMERABLE; THEY WERE FOUND EVERYWHERE.

24. -TRAINING CAMPS: THIS PLAN WAS FIRST CARRIED OUT IN THE STUDENTS MILITARY TRAINING COURSES THAT HAVE BEEN OPENED.

25. AS TO THE PLAN FOR WINNING VOTERS, CHIEFLY BY RIGGING, AND BY PARALYZING THE OPPOSITION BLOC, IT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT EVERYWHERE FOR A MONTH: ALL THE PEOPLE HAVE SEEN IT

AS HAVE OBSERVERS FROM THE PRESS. VIETNAMESE AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN HAVE WRITTEN MUCH ABOUT THIS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS USED MANY FRAUDULENT MANEUVERS. IN SOME PLACES, THE GOVERNMENT EVEN PREVENTED THE PEOPLE FROM GATHERING AT PLACES OF WORSHIP SUCH AS PAGODAS TO ATTEND CEREMONIES.

26. B. METICULOUS ORGANIZING TECHNIQUES FOR VICTORY
1) TO STUDY LOCATIONS FOR VOTING BOOTHS: THIS PROBLEM CAUSES DIFFICULTIES FOR OTHER SLATES TO COME AND CONTROL.

27. -THE TECHNIQUE OF REGULATING VOTING PLACES AND THE TRAINING OF OFFICIALS IN CHARGE. MASSIVE FRAUD CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THIS TECHNIQUE--RANGING FROM THE QUESTION OF CASTING BALLOTS TO THE MATTER OF THE MEN WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF CLIPPING VOTING CARDS AND WHO ALLOW GOVERNMENT CADRE TO VOTE MANY DIFFERENT VOTING CARDS (NOT CHECKING ID CARDS WHEN CLIPPING VOTING CARDS: THUS ID CARDS MUST BE PUNCHED). THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT IS WHEN VOTES ARE COUNTED. THEY MAY TAKE BALLOTS OF ONE SLATE OUT OF THE ENVELOPES BUT READ ANOTHER SLATE INTO THE VOTE-COUNT RECORDS. ALSO, IF VOTING STATION SUPERVISORS ARE RELATED THE GOVERNMENT SLATE, THEY COULD JOIN WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE UP VOTEACOUNTING REPORTS WHICH ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE RETURNS AT THE POLLING PLACE.
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28. PART THREE
PROVINCE CHIEFS WERE INSTRUCTED TO REACH THE QUOTE FIXED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. FOR THIS REASON, THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS OFFICER STATED THAT PRESIDENT WOULD BE ELECTED WITH 55 PERCENT OF THE VOTES.

29. ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE PROBLEM OF CARPETBAGGERS.

30. PART FOUR
A. ORGANIZATION OF THE CAMPAIGN APPARATUS
1) THE KEY PROVINCIAL AGENCY
A) THE SUPPORT BODY (THE SPECIAL STAFF). ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, THE PROVINCE CHIEF PERSONALLY DIRECTS THIS BODY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF POLICE, MILITARY SECURITY, INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS, PHOENIX CADRES, ETC. THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS ALL OTHER TICKETS AS HOSTILE, AND IT CONCENTRATES ALL FORCES ON THE ELECTION, THUS NEGLECTING COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. AS A RESULT, THE SITUATION IN THE PROVINCES HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE SERIOUS.
B) COVERT STAFF. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, ALL COMMADING OFFICERS OF REGULAR FORCES, REGIONAL FORCES AND POPULAR FORCES

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HAVE BEEN DRAWN INTO THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
B. CRITERIAL FOR THE SELECTION OF PERSONNEL
C. INTER-VILLAGE CADRES
D. INTER-VILLAGE PROPAGANDA CADRE.
THE DOUMENT SHOWS THAT ALL THE OFFICERS OF THE MILITARY SECTORS, CHIEFS OF THE INFORMATION SERVICE, POLICE, MILITARY SECURITY, DEPUTY VILLAGE CHIEFS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY...HAVE THE RIGHT TO ARREST AND TO USE COERCION AND REPRESSION.
E. PROPAGANDA CADRE: HAMLET CHIEFS, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT CADRE AND MILITARY ASSISTANTS ARE ARMED. EACH IS IN CHARGE OF CONTROLLING 3000 VOTERS.
2. OTHER CADRES
A. INFORMATION: INFORMATION CADRE IN ALL RADIO STATIONS, MEETING HALLS, INFORMATION CENTERS...MEANING THAT THE STATE HAS AT ITS DISPOSAL THE WHOLE INFORMATION APPARATUS.
B. RURAL-DEVELOPMENT CADRE: CADRE TRAINED AND PAID BY THE UNITED STATES.
C. VILLAGE, HAMLET OFFICALS AND POPULAR FORCES TROOPS.
D. POLICE: FOR DISRUPTION AND PARALYZING OF THE OPPOSITION BLOC.
E. SERVICEMEN.
F. TEACHERS. THE DOCUMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THIS GROUP CAN HARDLY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OPENLY. IT MENTIONS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PRIZE DAYS. THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN A BIG SCALE FROM THE CENTRAL TO REGIONAL LEVELS. THE TYPICAL CASE IS THE ATTENDING OF PRIZE GIVING CEREMONIES BY PRESIDENT AT CHU VAN AN, PETRUS KY, GIA LONG, TRUONG VUONG AND THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY.

31. THE DOCUMENT SHOWS THAT ALL CADRES WERE INSTRUCTED TO AND THIS APPARATUS HAS BEEN USED TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES TO THE LOWER HOUSE.

32. PART FIVE
B. MEANS OF PERSONNEL SUPPORT
PROVINCES PLACE AT THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SECRETARIATS' DISPOSAL: OFFICALS, SERVICEMEN, CLARKS, DRIVERS, MESSENGERS, POLICEMEN, CARS, TYPEWRITERS, OFFICE SUPPLIES ETC... THIS IS A FORM OF MISUSE AND THEFT OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.
C. MORALE SUPPORT
1. ARREST PEOPLE, THEN RELEASE THEM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THEIR

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THANKS.
2) THE DOCUMENT SHOWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SERVICES ARE EXTREMELY BAD, AND ONLY SERVE THEPEOPLEWELL DURING THE ELECTION.
3) SOCIAL WORKS FOR THE ELECTION: FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT PAID VISITS AND GAVE MONEY EVERYWHERE, THE MOST RECENT CASE WAS THE VISIT TO XOM-MOI, THE PROMISE TO GIVE ELECTRICE GENERATORS AND BUILD ROADS, VISITS TO HOSPITALS IN CHOLON (TO GIVE MONEY) THE VISIT TO THE TAY-NINH HOLY SEE (TO GIVE TWO ELECTRIC GENERATORS FOR LAMPS...). END TEXT.
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